

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 H-01 INR-10 INT-05

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 SP-02

SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /123 W

-----085958 031509Z /43

P 031508Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5808

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

DOE WASHDC

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USEEC

PARIS ALSO FOR OECD

VIENNA FOR USIAEA

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, OSCI, TECH, EEC

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL URANIUM RESOURCE EVALUATION

-- PROGRAM (IUREP)

REF: STATE 76993

1. IN ABSENCE ON EASTER LEAVE OF SENIOR COMMISSION OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR IUREP MATTERS, CLAUDE RENAUD, DEPUTY TO DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR ENERGY WILLIAMS, INFORMED MISSION OFFICE THAT HE THOUGHT IT MOST UNLIKELY THAT EC WOULD BE IN POSITION TO COMMIT ITSELF TO CONTRIBUTE TO PHASE TWO OF SUBJECT PROGRAM FOR SOME TIME. HE NOTED THAT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACCORDING TO EC COMMISSION'S REPORT ON MARCH 14-15 MEETING IN PARIS OF NEW FUEL CYCLE COMMITTEE, THE SUGGESTION OF A POSSIBLE EC CONTRIBUTION WAS CAREFULLY QUALIFIED AND MERELY NOTED THAT "A COORDINATED COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION WAS NOT EXCLUDED."

2. EC COMMISSION OFFICIAL ROSS AITKEN ON HIS RETURN TO BRUSSELS ON APRIL 3 CONFIRMED THAT EARLY EC COMMITMENT WAS

IMPOSSIBLE, ALTHOUGH HE WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT IN TIME BOTH EC FINANCIAL AND OTHER SUPPORT WOULD PROBABLY BE MADE AVAILABLE. AITKEN NOTED THAT IN ORDER TO GET A COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION TO WHAT HE SAID WAS THE \$2 MILLION COST OF THE "INTERMEDIATE PHASE" OF PHASE TWO OF IUREP, EC COUNCIL APPROVAL WOULD BE NECESSARY SINCE PROJECTS OUTSIDE THE MEMBER STATES ARE INVOLVED. HE FELT IT MIGHT TAKE UP TO THREE MONTHS TO OBTAIN SUCH APPROVAL. THE LOAN OF AN EC EXPERT COULD BE ARRANGED SOONER, BUT EVEN THIS WOULD REQUIRE PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS WITH THE MEMBER STATES.

3. AS A PERSONAL COMMENT, AITKEN NOTED THAT, ALTHOUGH ALL PARTICIPANTS APPEARED VERY PLEASED WITH THE TECHNICAL PROGRESS OF IUREP, HE THOUGHT COMMITMENTS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PHASE TWO WOULD PROBABLY BE SLOW IN COMING BECAUSE OF SOME APPARENT POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES.

4. AITKEN WILL REPRESENT THE EC COMMISSION AT THE IUREP MEETING IN VIENNA BEGINNING APRIL 4. THE U.S. DELEGATION MAY WISH TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE EC CONTRIBUTIONS TO IUREP FURTHER WITH HIM THERE. MORRIS

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